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April 24, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

### **Regents To Host MERLOT Electronic Learning Workshop**

The Board of Regents will help teachers from across the state access a whole new world of electronic learning tools this **Saturday, April 26**, at the first Louisiana MERLOT Workshop. The workshop, entitled "Gateway To Electronic Learning Resources," will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Louisiana Purchase Boardroom of the Claiborne State Office Building (1201 North Third Street) in Baton Rouge.

MERLOT, which stands for Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching, is an international cooperative for high-quality online resources to improve teaching and learning. It's a free, peer-reviewed collection of over 8,000 different online learning tools and simulations developed primarily by college professors around the world. While the collection is designed primarily for faculty and students at the college level, it also includes material that will interest secondary school students and teachers as well. Louisiana MERLOT is made available by the Board of Regents.

"The primary advantage of using MERLOT as opposed to simply searching the internet with a search engine, is that it helps you avoid the useless hits that must be waded through in a typical internet search," explained Mike Abbiatti, Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology for the Board of Regents. "And all of the modular materials have been reviewed and rated by educational professionals in a variety of disciplines. You can save a lot of time with MERLOT."

A student or teacher can browse MERLOT by subject area: Arts, Business, Education, Humanities, Mathematics, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. MERLOT provides links

(More)

## **MERLOT Workshop**

### **ADD ONE**

to online teaching and learning materials, evaluation of online resources, sample assignments that illustrate classroom use of the materials, and links to other educators in a given discipline, among other useful features.

Saturday's workshop is aimed at familiarizing Louisiana educators and students alike with the features, services and functionality of MERLOT, as well as other shared content resources. The day begins with registration at 8:30. The complete agenda is as follows:

**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. - Registration**

**9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - National MERLOT Briefing**

Introductions: Mike Abbiatti, Louisiana Board of Regents;  
Dr. Gerry Hanley, MERLOT Executive Director;  
Dr. Jessica Somers, Board of Regents  
of the University System of Georgia;  
and  
Louisiana MERLOT Project Team Members

**10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. - Break**

**10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Roundtable Session**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Workshop Sessions**

**3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. - Break**

**3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. - Closing Session**